

# SPOTLIGHT

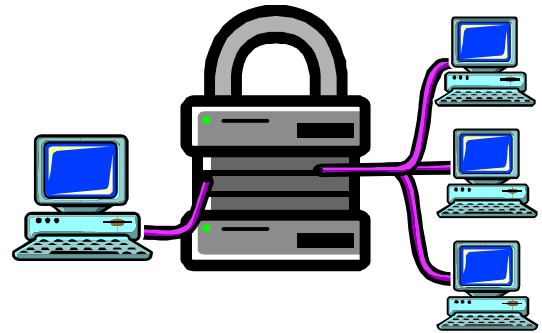
Newsletter of the DOE Electronic Proposal Management Application (ePMA) project

## ePMA Relocates to SunGard Data Facility

The PMA Project Team is pleased to announce that ePMA has moved to a new location at a SunGard data facility in Philadelphia, which should result in faster proposal processing and solve the “time out” problem that has aggravated system users in the past. This move will also make Helpdesk service available during weekends and for a longer time on weekdays.

PTC (Parametric Technology Corporation) and NetIDEAS are the application support and software development contractors who replaced Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC) as the prime contractor for the system. The system completed its Certification and Acceptance requirement and a code review before being transferred to the new location. Because of the transition from CSC to PTC/NetIDEAS, and the need to move the current ePMA release (Release 3) to the SunGard facility and ensure its stability, the latest Software Change Requests were unfortunately not available for the FY09 Field Budget Call response.

Contractors at PTC, which produced the Windchill application upon which ePMA is built, helped ensure a smooth transition to SunGard, a leading provider of application hosting services. PTC offers one of the best cyber security and physical security systems available, with around-the-clock application monitoring.



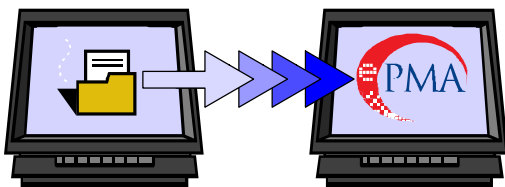
## Office of Energy Efficiency Joins Office of Science in Using ePMA for Field Budget Call

For the FY 2009 Field Budget Call, DOE’s Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) joined the Office of Science (SC) in asking the National Laboratories to submit Field Work Proposals (FWPs) through ePMA.

For the last two years, SC has required the laboratories to use ePMA in responding to the Budget Call. This will be the first time EERE has done so, and most EERE-associated labs will participate. To prepare the laboratories for EERE Budget Call submittals, EERE staff distributed guidance and visited the labs to discuss specifics and address potential problems and issues. The Office of Science also updated its Budget Call guidance for FY09 and distributed it to the laboratories. Jeff Voivoda, formerly with ePMA’s development contractor Computer

Sciences Corporation, conducted two Webinars to familiarize new users with ePMA and to demonstrate how to link first and second generation proposals. His written instructions for proposal linking are posted on the SAM (Site Administration Manager) Resources page at the ePMA Web site:

[http://epma.energy.gov/samcentral/sam\\_home.asp](http://epma.energy.gov/samcentral/sam_home.asp) (continued)



EERE is receiving all FWP's at a central location and routing them to the appropriate program office for review, which is different from the Office of Science's practice of having proposals sent to each program office in SC.

For EERE, the content and format of the FWP will be aligned with agreement-level information contained in EERE's Corporate Planning System (CPS). The agreement-level information is intended for upload into CPS as planning data for FY09 through FY12, where applicable.

## BARDI Project Update: Two Laboratories & EERE Conclude Pilot Project

Two National Laboratories and the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy have concluded a successful pilot project for Phase I of the Basic and Applied Research and Development Integration (BARDI) Project, which EERE initiated last summer. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory and Oak Ridge National Laboratory spent four months testing the new ePMA infrastructure for BARDI, which is allowing EERE to collect agreement-level information from the labs for comparison with its Corporate Planning System (CPS) agreement-level planning data.

EERE's Office of Solar Energy Technologies and Office of Hydrogen, Fuel Cells and Infrastructure Technologies participated in the pilot. Over the next few months, EERE will introduce BARDI to all its program offices and the other EERE-associated laboratories.

BARDI is establishing a new interface between DOE Headquarters and the National Laboratories for the collection of essential EERE



*Aerial view of National Renewable Energy Laboratory facilities in Golden, Colorado.*



*Aerial view of Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee*

*"The BARDI Project will help us simplify our monthly agreement level submission to the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy from the current Microsoft Excel reporting format."*  
Kevin Novotny,  
Manager, Budget and Analysis at the  
National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

mission-related technical and cost-tracking data on the office's research and development projects. EERE developed BARDI because tighter budgets and closer scrutiny of federal spending is driving DOE's program offices to more closely align and manage their research investments and leverage collaborative opportunities. By providing ready access to necessary data, the project will help EERE program managers make informed decisions on their R&D investments.

To assist and prepare the 11 laboratories EERE works with for the BARDI Project, David Boron of EERE's Office of Information and Business Management Systems, ePMA's Deputy Project Manager, conducted in-person information and question-and-answer meetings at the labs.

## From the Project Manager

ePMA is living in interesting times. We've changed support and development contractors, embarked on the Basic and Applied Research and Development Integration (BARDI) Project, and moved the application to a new environment. Some of the people helping ePMA in our endeavors work for EERE contractors QSA, Inc., and BCS, Inc. QSA staff have been instrumental in insuring the successful coding of ePMA for the BARDI project, and BCS staff have worked most ably with National Renewable Energy Laboratory and (continued)

**There are a total of 4,824 proposals in ePMA.**

Oak Ridge National Laboratory staff to prepare and conduct the BARDI pilot. So, I would like to take this time to say **thank you** to the following people who are helping ePMA navigate through this interesting and exciting time. From BCS, Inc.: Puja Bisht, Cheri Cohn, Charles Jennings, Krista Jones, and Ryan Facer. From QSA, Inc.: Bindu Jacob, Angela Hein, and Steve McCardle. We appreciate your assistance.

-Dave Henderson

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## Feedback Requested!

- We want to hear from you. Help promote ePMA by telling others about the project or pointing them to the project Web site: <http://epma.energy.gov>.
- Suggest or submit an article for future editions of *Spotlight*.
- Tell us what you think about ePMA. We need your input to successfully enhance and support this first-of-a-kind system.

Contact Jim Fremont, ePMA Communication and Outreach Manager, at [james.fremont@ee.doe.gov](mailto:james.fremont@ee.doe.gov)

Deployed on September 30, 2004, ePMA provides--for the first time--a uniform format for the electronic submission, review, and tracking of research and development proposals from the National Laboratories to Headquarters Program Secretarial Offices, thereby enhancing the efficiency of the Department's R&D activities.

*Spotlight* is the official newsletter for the DOE Electronic Proposal Management Application (ePMA) project. *Spotlight* is published periodically for federal government employees and contractors interested in ePMA activities. For more information, visit us online at <http://epma.energy.gov>